

REMARKS

By this amendment the specification has been changed to reflect prior related applications. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claims 15 and 16 are cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 2-13 and 16-23 are amended to correct form or to remove multiple dependencies in order to reduce the filing fee.

No new matter has been added by this amendment. Examination of the subject application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If any minor matters need to be addressed, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Marked-up Version of Amended Claims and Specification
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b)-(c)**

In the Specification:

Page 1, line 2, please insert the following:

--PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a U.S. National Stage § 371 of PCT/GB00/02216, filed June 19, 2000, which was published in English under PCT Article 21(2), which claims the benefit of U.K. Application GB9914187.1, filed June 18, 1999, and U.K. Application GB9930252.3, filed December 22, 1999.--

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Reiterated) A polymer drug conjugate comprising:
at least one anti-cancer agent; and
a dextrin polymer, wherein said dextrin polymer is modified by succinylation by at least 20mol% characterised in that the stability of the polymer drug conjugate is enhanced.
2. (Amended) [A] The polymer drug conjugate according to Claim 1, wherein said dextrin is succinoylated to at least 30mol%.
3. (Amended) [A] The polymer drug conjugate according to Claim 2, wherein said dextrin is succinoylated from 30% to 40mol%.
4. (Amended) [A] The polymer drug conjugate according to Claim 3, wherein said dextrin is succinoylated from 32% to 36mol%.

5. (Amended) [A] The polymer drug conjugate according to Claim 4, wherein said dextrin is succinoylated to about 34mol%.
6. (Amended) [A] The polymer drug conjugate according to [any of Claims] Claim 1[-5], wherein [the] a percentage of α -1-6 linkages in the dextrin is less than 10%.
7. (Amended) [A] The polymer drug conjugate according to Claim 6, wherein the percentage of α -1-6 linkages in the dextrin is less than 5%.
8. (Amended) [A] The polymer drug conjugate according to [any of Claims] Claim 1,[-7], wherein [the] a molecular weight of the dextrin is in [the] an average molecular weight range 1000-200000.
9. (Amended) [A] The polymer drug conjugate according to Claim 8, wherein [the] a molecular weight of the dextrin is in [the] an average molecular weight range 2000-55000.
10. (Amended) [A] The polymer drug conjugate according to [any of Claims] Claim 1[-9], wherein the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers of DP greater than 12.
11. (Amended) [A] The polymer drug conjugate according to Claim 10, wherein the dextrin contains more than 50% of polymers of DP greater than 12.
12. (Amended) [A] The polymer drug conjugate according to [any of Claims] Claim 1[-13], wherein said anti cancer agent is selected from the group consisting of: cyclophosphamide; melphalan; carmusline; methotrexate, 5-fluorouracil; cytarabine; mercaptopurine; anthracyclines; daunorubicin; doxorubicin; epirubicin, vinca alkaloids; vinblastin, vincristine; dactinomycin; mitomycin C; taxol; L-asparaginase; G-CSF; cisplatin; and carboplatin.

13. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition₂ comprising [a] the polymer drug conjugate according to [any of Claims] Claim 1[-12] and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient or carrier.
14. Please cancel claim 14.
15. Please cancel claim 15.
16. (Amended) A polymer drug conjugate comprising:
[i)] at least one biologically active agent; and
[ii)] a dextrin polymer, wherein said dextrin polymer is modified by succinylation by at least 20mol% characterized in that the stability of the polymer drug conjugate is enhanced.
17. (Amended) [A] The polymer conjugate according to Claim 16₂ wherein said agent is an imaging agent.
18. (Amended) [A] The polymer conjugate according to Claim 17₂ wherein the imaging agent is tyrosinamide.
19. (Amended) [A] The polymer conjugate according to Claim 16₂ wherein said agent is a diagnostic agent.
20. (Amended) [A] The polymer conjugate according to Claim 16₂ wherein said agent is a targeting agent.
21. (Amended) [A] The polymer conjugate according to Claim 20 wherein the targeting agent is biotin.
22. (Amended) A method [of treatment of] for treating a disease or disorder in an animal subject₂ [the method including the administration of] comprising:

administering to the animal a pharmaceutically effective amount of the polymer drug conjugate according to [any of Claims] Claim 1[-12], thereby treating the disease or disorder in the subject.

23. (Amended) [A] The method [of treatment] according to Claim 22, wherein said animal is human.